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Separate Cover Attachment to OELA-8528 dtd 6 Dec 1954

(OCI - 0143/55)

MEMORANDUM FOR: DD/I

FROM:

Sr. DD/I Representative, London

SUBJECT:

Conversation with Assistant Head of Permanent Under

Secretary's Department of Foreign Office

In a conversation of 1 December 1954, Mr. Peter Murray stated that the foreign broadcast intercept program of the B.B.C. had been under serious pressure from the Treasury to show cause why it should continue to receive a budget allocation of the size presently existing. What apparently disturbed the Treasury was that while the intercept program was administered by the B.B.C., the B.B.C. seemed always to require more funds to serve its various customers on an ever-widening range of subjects, with no one assuming the responsibility for sorting out these requirements. Mr. Murray said that his department had managed to hold the line for the coming year, but that a special investigation was to be held to look into the various aspects of the foreign intercept program and to determine what aspects of it, if any, could be curtailed or eliminated.

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(signed)

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